



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION

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ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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May 7, 2004

TO: Regional Administrators
CSO Administrators
Regional Financial Coordinators
Financial Supervisors
Financial Staff

FROM: Steven Wish, Director
Division of Customer Support
Medical Assistance Administration

Georgiann DeKay, Acting Director
Division of Management and Operations Support
Economic Services Administration

SUBJECT: PREMIUMS – CHILDREN’S MEDICAL COVERAGE

Background: Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) is implementing premiums for Medicaid (F06) children based on a waiver submitted to and approved by the federal government. The 2004 Legislature also approved premiums for Medicaid children, but reduced the amount of premiums they initially approved in the 2003 Legislative Session.

Last fall, during the statewide *2003 Changes* training sessions, MAA staff explained there were three premium bands scheduled to be implemented in January 2004. The 2004 Legislature modified Medicaid premiums as follows:

- Premiums will start July 1, 2004;
- Children in families between 100-150% FPL (Band A) will be exempt;
- Children in families between 150-200% FPL (Band B) will pay \$10 per child per month;
- Children above 200% FPL (Band C or SCHIP) will pay \$15 per child per month.

ACES Actions:

- On June 12, 2004, ACES will recalculate eligibility to determine which children are subject to premiums and set the premium amount.
- During the week of June 14th, ACES will notify all clients subject to premiums (see attached ACES letter 08-07).
- After ACES deadline, ACES will provide Financial Services Administration (FSA) with billing information.
- Near the end of June, FSA will send the first bill for July premiums.

MAA Action: MAA is working with ACES staff to amend the premium amounts for Bands A, B, and C as described in the following excerpt from the EAZ manual:

The premium amount is determined by the amount of income in the Net Income field on the MAFI screen. There are three Bands of premiums: Bands A and B apply to F06 children; and Band C applies to SCHIP (F07) children.

Band	FPL Minimum	FPL Maximum	Monthly Premium	Household Maximum Premium Amount
A (F06)	>100%	≤ 150%	\$0	
B (F06)	>150%	≤ 200%	\$10.00	\$30.00
C (F07)	>200%	≤ 250%	\$15.00	\$45.00

MAA is also sending out a premium informational flyer to all affected households immediately after the ACES letter is sent and before FSA sends the first billing (see attached flyer).

CSO/CSC Actions:

- Read the children's premiums chapter in the EAZ Manual to fully understand the premium policy and process in order to be able to explain it to clients. The EAZ chapter will be available soon.
- After July 1, clients needing billing and payment information should call the Answer Phone. Clients subject to premiums will be given a menu option for premiums. To reduce workload, refer clients to the Answer Phone at 1-877-980-9220.
- **For CSO staff only:** you can access FSA billing and payment database at: <http://147.56.208.11/vendor/>. Effective July 19, 2004, this database will be available to field staff through a hyperlink located in ACES Online.

If you have any premium policy and procedural questions or need instructions on how to access the FSA database, please contact your MAA regional representative:

Region	Representative	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Region 1	Wendy Forslin	360-725-1434	forslwc@dshs.wa.gov
Region 2	Judy Cook	360-725-1324	cookjr@dshs.wa.gov
Region 3	Stephen Kozak	360-725-1321	kozaksj@dshs.wa.gov
Region 4	Joanie Scotson	360-725-1330	scotsjk@dshs.wa.gov
Region 5	Mary Beth Ingram	360-725-1327	ingramb@dshs.wa.gov
Region 6	Mary Wood	360-725-1329	woodme@dshs.wa.gov

Attachments

cc: Doug Porter, Medical Assistance Administration
Deb Bingaman, Economic Services Administration
Mike Hart, Community Services Division